

REMARKS

I. Status of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 17, 18 and 20-22 stand rejected.

Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16 and 19 are objected to.

Claims 10-12 are presently allowed.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The examiner has rejected Claims 1-2, 4, 13, 15, 17-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Frahauf et al. (USP 5,291,139, hereinafter "Frahauf"). The examiner further stated that "Figure 1 shows a detection circuit for indicating a blown state or un-blown state a fuse under detection, comprising . . . a fuse detection voltage corresponding to an un-blown state of the fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage corresponding of a blown stage of the fuse under detection (vref2 is between vref1 (unblown) and 0 volt (blown)), thereby distinguishing the blown state from the un-blown state, a comparator (COMP) as called for in claims 1, 13, 18 and 20."

With respect to Claim 1, the claim recites in part: "the reference voltage being between a fuse detection voltage corresponding to an un-blown state of the fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage corresponding to a blown state of the fuse under detection." Frahauf neither discloses nor suggests a detection circuit for indicating a blown state or un-blown state of a fuse under detection with the reference voltage being between a fuse detection voltage corresponding to an un-blown state of the fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage corresponding to a blown state of the fuse under

detection. Frahauf specifically discloses a circuit wherein the reference voltage is equal to the voltage produced by the fuse under detection in the un-blown state. See column 3, lines 20-36. Because Claim 1 contains a limitation neither disclosed nor suggested by Frahauf, the applicant traverses the examiner's rejection of Claim 1 and requests that the claim be allowed.

With respect to independent Claims 13, 18 and 20 the claims are amended herein to include the phrase "the reference voltage to be between a fuse detection voltage of an un-blown fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage of a blown fuse under detection, thereby distinguishing a blown state from and un-blown state by comparison with the reference voltage." Because, as stated above, Frahauf does not disclose nor suggest this limitation, the applicant respectfully traverses the examiner's rejection of these claims and requests that they be allowed as herein amended.

With respect to Claim 2 and 4 the applicant respectfully traverses and requests that the claims be allowed for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent Claim 1. With respect to Claims 15 and 17-19, the applicant respectfully traverses and requests that the claims be allowed for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent Claim 13.

With respect to claim 22, the applicant respectfully traverses and requests that the claim be allowed for at least the same reasons as Claim 20

The examiner has rejected claims 2 and 15, stating that Frahauf, figure 1 shows respective transistors (Tf1, Tf2) receiving a fuse detection enable signal (B). The fuse detection enable signal in Frahauf is used to open the pathway between the fuse and the detection circuit to isolate the comparator from the fuse when the fuse is burned and to close the pathway when the fuse state is to be detected. See Frahauf Fig. 1 and description at column 3, lines 4-14. Claims

2 and 15 as amended herein, state “the reference circuit part and the fuse detection circuit part having respective transistors for receiving a fuse detection enable signal, wherein said transistors for receiving ground said fuse detection voltage when said fuse detection enable signal is in a disable condition.” Frahauf neither discloses nor suggests that the fuse detection enable signal grounds the fuse detection voltage.

III. Allowable Subject matter

The examiner has objected to Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16 and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant thanks the examiner for this observation, but respectfully declines to amend Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16 and 19 for the reason that the applicant has traversed the examiner’s rejections of the independent claims on which these claims are based. For that reason, these claims are allowable in their original form.

IV. Conclusion

Having addressed the examiner’s rejections, applicant submits that the reasons for the examiner’s rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 17-18 and 20-22 and objections to Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16 and 19 have been overcome and the rejections and objections can no longer be sustained. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections and that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Should any unresolved issues remain, the examiner is requested to call Applicant’s attorney at the telephone number below.

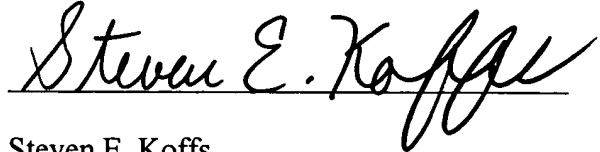
The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to Duane Morris LLP deposit

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Attorney Docket No.: TS03-0608 (N1085-00213)

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account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven E. Koffs", written over a horizontal line.

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